

# BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



AUGUST 2013



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## BLOOMINGTON POLICE CELEBRATE 60 YEARS SERVING THE COMMUNITY

The year was 1953. The population in the newly incorporated village of Bloomington was 14,000 and growing rapidly. Many people, including town board member Clay Nord, felt that Bloomington needed a police department. Nord exhorted the village council, saying police officers were needed to handle increases in “rush hour traffic on thoroughfares” and to “avert the possibility of severe crime epidemics.” The village council agreed and appointed Nord as Bloomington’s first Chief of Police. Three officers were hired soon after.

Today, Bloomington has more than 85,000 residents and a population of visitors and employees that triples that number on most days. The Bloomington Police Department (BPD) has evolved to keep up with the City’s ever-changing needs. The department now has an authorized strength of 118 sworn officers, 35 civilians, two animal control officers and an annual budget of \$21.5 million. In the 60 years since the department was formed, 335 officers and 150 civilians have served. When people come to the department they usually stay until they retire, which, according to Chief Jeff Potts, speaks not only to the quality of the officers, but to the strength of the department and the quality of the organization as a whole.

### The changing face of the BPD

This year, the City hired 14 new officers, most as a result of recent retirements. More than 600 applications were received. However, only a select few high-quality individuals were chosen for interviews based on a rigorous screening process. The police officers who make the cut are required to complete five weeks of initial Bloomington-specific training and 16 weeks of field training before hitting the streets. In addition, the department places a strong emphasis on continued law enforcement education and training.

“The face of the department is changing as more seasoned employees retire and younger officers join the

department,” Potts said. “When officers retire, they take all their experience with them. It’s one of the reasons why we require new officers to complete such an intensive training program.”

### Evolving to meet the needs of the community

Community engagement has long been a priority for the BPD, but as the City grows and demographics change, engagement becomes even more important.

The BPD prides itself on being more than just “in” the community; it is an integral part of the community. The values statement of the department encourages partnerships with community groups and youth. Police outreach programs, such as the Citizens’ Police Academy, Neighborhood Watch, Bloomington Police Explorers and New Americans Academy, among others, are committed to strengthening the community and making Bloomington a safer place to live and work. See page 2 for more on outreach programs.

### OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 10

The BPD will be hosting an open house on **Saturday, August 10, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.**, at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Bloomington Police Department. This special event is open to the public and will include a tour of the Police Department, historical photos and memorabilia, presentations by specialty units such as the SWAT team, K-9 Unit and Bomb Squad, and birthday cake.

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Mark your calendars! The 30th Annual National Night Out celebration takes place Tuesday, August 6. Don’t miss this special night dedicated to community-building, friendship and public safety.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: NNO.

## BLOOMINGTON POLICE SWAT TEAM

Bloomington’s Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team was formed in 1983 and includes a commander, three sergeants, 14 officers and three tactical paramedics who respond to high-risk situations. The SWAT team recently trained a new member. Get an inside look at his training and the rigorous efforts put forth by this highly technical group of law enforcement officers. To watch the video on YouTube, scan the QR code or visit <http://blm.mn/swat>.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: SWAT.





The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8819; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-MAIL [jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us). Website: [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us)

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Elected officials presented for informational purposes.

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The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY).

Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.

MAYOR’S MEMO  
POLICE PROGRAMS ENHANCE OUR QUALITY OF LIFE

By Mayor Gene Winstead

In a 2012 resident survey conducted by the National Research Center of Boulder, Colorado, 90 percent of residents rated Bloomington as excellent or good when it comes to quality of life and 84 percent responded that they felt very or somewhat safe from violent crime. Many factors contribute to the perception of a quality community – availability of quality, affordable housing, parks and open spaces, quality services, cultural and educational opportunities. Safety from crime creates the foundation of an attractive community.

As the Bloomington Police Department celebrates its 60th year serving the community, *see cover story*, now is a good time to reflect on some programs and initiatives the department has successfully employed to not only keep us safe, but keep us involved. The Bloomington Police Department encourages partnerships with diverse community groups, businesses and schools. Outreach programs such as Bloomington Police Explorers and Cops and Kids baseball are committed to helping Bloomington youth. Beyond the formal programs for youth, officers volunteer to teach safety in Bloomington classrooms. This past spring, officers handed out coupons for free ice cream and music to teen drivers spotted wearing their seat belts.

Crime prevention programs such as the ones below ranked #3 in the survey’s comparison of Bloomington to 21 high-performing cities that are similar to Bloomington in size, demographics, population and employment base.

The Crime Prevention Unit works with residents and businesses to address concerns about traffic safety, neighborhood disputes and crime prevention. The unit has collaborated with various City departments and community organizations since the 1980s to implement programs to deter crime, such as Neighborhood Watch and the Citizens’ Police Academy.

The Neighborhood Watch program, which began in 1987, comprises 382 groups headed by 700 Neighborhood Watch Block Captains. The program was developed to train and educate residents in ways to stay informed and work together to prevent crime. Each year, Neighborhood Watch Block Captains throughout Bloomington organize block parties to celebrate the always-popular National Night Out.

The Citizens’ Police Academy annually accepts 30 residents who meet once a week for 10 weeks to participate in a series of workshops designed to give them an inside look at police operations. Participants learn about firearms, self-defense and the specialized units within the police department. At the conclusion of the program, they have a better understanding of the demands placed on police officers, while at the same time police officers gain valuable insights and feedback from the citizens they serve.

Visit the City’s website to learn more about Bloomington Police Department programs and opportunities, and be sure to visit the open house celebration at Bloomington Civic Plaza on August 10.



CITY CODE CHANGE  
NO PARKING WITHIN FIVE FEET OF MAILBOXES AND DRIVEWAYS

Bloomington is fortunate to have an abundance of on-street parking in most neighborhoods. Finding a place to park usually isn’t a problem for residents or visitors. However, some areas of the city have special amenities and celebrations that occasionally draw large crowds, causing more people to park on residential streets. A change to the City Code formalizes a parking rule that good neighbors in Bloomington have long observed: Recent revisions to Chapter 8 of City Code now prohibit parking within five feet of mailboxes and driveways. See diagram below.

Parking at least five feet away from driveways makes it easier for residents to get vehicles in and out of their driveways safely. Parking five feet away from mailboxes makes it easier for letter carriers and residents to access their mail – especially important because the United States Postal Service will not deliver to blocked mailboxes.

The next time you find yourself parking on the street to visit a friend or take advantage of the numerous amenities the city has to offer, remember the five-foot rule. Not only will you avoid getting a ticket, it’s the “Minnesota nice” thing to do.







Photo courtesy of Cathy Morrison of the Missouri Department of Transportation.

This photo shows an example of a diverging diamond interchange in Missouri. Bloomington’s diverging diamond will have a light rail running through it.

# A GEM OF AN INTERCHANGE

## DIVERGING DIAMOND TO BE CONSTRUCTED AROUND LIGHT RAIL

The rebuilding of the interchange at I-494 and 34th Avenue as a “diverging diamond” began recently. When the interchange opens to traffic in the fall, it will be one of only three diverging diamond interchanges in Minnesota and the only one of its kind in the country with light rail running through it. The Blue Line (Hiawatha Light Rail Transit) will continue to run in the center median of 34th Avenue with the new configuration. The reconstructed interchange will enhance safety and increase capacity to accommodate more vehicles from future South Loop development and the expansion of Terminal 2 at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

The project is led by the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), in partnership with the Minnesota

Department of Transportation, the City of Bloomington and Metro Transit. The majority of the project is being funded through a Transportation Economic Development grant that was awarded in 2011. Remaining project costs are being funded by MAC and the City through a cost sharing agreement. Diverging diamond interchanges are less expensive to construct than the typical loop and ramp interchange design.

The anticipated completion date is November 2013. For more information, including details on road closures and a video showing how to navigate diverging diamond interchanges, visit the [City’s website](#).

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SOUTH LOOP.

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The Federal Highway Administration estimates that diverging diamond interchanges can handle twice the left-hand turns as conventional interchanges while significantly cutting overall traffic delays.

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## WHAT’S A DIVERGING DIAMOND INTERCHANGE?

Don’t let the flashy name and twists and turns fool you. Diverging diamond interchanges actually simplify traffic operations by eliminating traditional left-hand turns – those that have drivers cross lanes for oncoming traffic – by shifting drivers to the left side of the roadway between the signalized ramps. This allows right and left turn movements to the freeway entrance ramps to occur unopposed and without stopping.

## ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN THE SOUTH LOOP

- TH 77 and Lindau Lane safety improvements to reduce accidents near IKEA Way – Bloomington’s highest-crash intersection.
- Lindau Lane grade separation to prepare for future phases on the north side of Mall of America.
- Construction of a pedestrian bridge over Killebrew Drive.

## AWESOME ACCOLADES

### POLICE BEHAVIOR RECOGNITION AWARDS CEREMONY

The annual Bloomington Police Behavior Recognition Awards, recognizing citizens and police for their contributions to the community and public safety, took place in May. This year, 10 residents were awarded the Citizen Commendation Medal. Department Commendation Medals were awarded to Officer Nate Krogh and Sergeant Mike Utecht. Department Supervisory Commendations were awarded to Officers Tom McCullough, Dan Nelson, Don Rix, Joe Schwartz and Tim Brosam and Sergeant MikeDenis Otterness. The 2012 Optimist Club Officer of the Year was Sergeant Mike Hartley.

From left to right: Chief Jeff Potts, Officer Nate Krogh and Sergeant Mike Utecht.



## ASK A BUILDING INSPECTOR

**Q:** We are about to embark on a large-scale home improvement project. Do we need to hire a licensed contractor to do the work? Who should obtain the required permits?

**A:** In Minnesota, building permits may be issued to either a licensed contractor or to the homeowner. A homeowner who decides to apply for a permit will be acting as the owner/builder and general contractor for the project. This means the owner assumes all liabilities for the job, including workers’ compensation insurance, state and federal withholding taxes, planning and inspection scheduling. And if inspections find any problems, the owner will be responsible for making corrections. The City strongly recommends that unless you have the time and experience to handle the work associated with a large-scale construction project, you should hire a licensed contractor.

Minnesota law requires most residential building contractors, remodelers and roofers be licensed by the state to ensure a minimum level of competency and protect the homeowner. Specialty contractors who perform only one task (e.g., masonry or carpentry) are exempt from state licensing. To determine whether a contractor has a state license, look for the license number on the contractor’s business cards, contracts, proposals, vehicles and permit applications.

For more information, visit the [City’s website](#).

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: BUILDING PERMITS.

## DID YOU KNOW?

In 2012, the City issued 11,400 building and trade permits for more than \$200 million in new construction and remodeling. The value of permits in 2012 was equal to Bloomington’s 10-year average.

## CITY’S PUBLICATIONS RECEIVE HIGH HONORS

Bloomington brought home three awards for its print publications from the Northern Lights Awards contest held this spring at the Minneapolis Central Library. The *Briefing*, *Insider* and 2012 *Corporate Report to the Community* all received Awards of Merit from the Minnesota Association of Government Communicators (MAGC). The City has now received a total of 38 awards from MAGC since 2004. This was MAGC’s 31st annual Northern Lights Awards contest, which represents the best in government communications.



TRY COMPOSTING  
REDUCE WASTE AND GROW A  
HEALTHIER GARDEN

Don't feel like bagging up all those mounds of raked leaves and clumps of grass clippings? Compost them instead. Think of it as a resource – one that will help keep your flowers blooming and your yard healthy and beautiful, year after year.

Composting converts plant materials such as grass clippings and leaves into a usable organic soil amendment or mulch. Gardeners have used compost for centuries to increase soil organic matter, improve soil composition and supply some of the essential nutrients for plant growth. Incorporating compost into light, sandy soil helps it hold both moisture and nutrients, while adding it to heavy soil improves drainage.

For more information on composting, visit the [City's website](#).

WEBSITE KEYWORD: COMPOST.



GOOD FOR YOUR  
GARDEN  
RAIN BARRELS WORK FOR  
WATER CONSERVATION

Installing a rain barrel is an effective way to conserve water and save money. Rain barrels can:

- Provide a healthy and cost-effective way to water your garden.
- Reduce the workload on your municipal water system by reducing your use of treated water.
- Collect and direct rainwater away from the foundation of your house and into your garden.
- Minimize stormwater runoff from your property.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: RAIN BARRELS.

DID YOU KNOW?

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, garden and lawn irrigation accounts for 40 percent of residential water use during the summer.



EARTH ACTION HEROES  
LIVING GREEN AT GENESEE

Redevelopment of commercial areas need not result in bleak expanses of asphalt designed only for cars and trucks. Genesee is proof that a livable, sustainable neighborhood can thrive in a busy urban area.

Genesee Apartments & Townhomes made its debut in the summer of 2012 as the first phase of a redevelopment plan for the Penn-American District. Bloomington-based developers StuartCo and United Properties built the mixed-use retail and residential development on the southeast corner of Penn Avenue and American Boulevard. The developers teamed with the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority on the project, which includes 212 apartments and 22 townhomes.

At Genesee, residents have opportunities for shopping, dining and employment all within steps of their front doors and enjoy close proximity to transit. Genesee was built with sustainability in mind. StuartCo's Director of Marketing Janet Rosseth said that many sustainable practices were incorporated into the building of Genesee, making it eligible for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. The LEED rating system was developed by the U.S. Green Building Council. Bloomington has a number of LEED-certified buildings, including Quality Bicycle Products and Reflections condominiums in the South Loop District.

"We've found that sustainability is just as important to residents as it is to developers," Rosseth said. "From heating and cooling, to sustainable materials and landscape, there are environmentally conscious elements utilized throughout the entire property."

Genesee's sustainable features include energy-efficient Pella windows, electric occupancy sensors that control lights in public areas, waste-minimizing trash chutes and recycling stations, low-VOC paint, individual climate control digital thermostats, high-efficiency hot water heaters and air circulation systems, sustainable granite countertops, Energy Star appliances and water-conserving, energy-efficient plumbing. In addition, Genesee is a smoke-free building.

StuartCo emphasizes Genesee's sustainable features on its website and has even started a blog to encourage residents and employees to share ideas about how they can be even greener.

"StuartCo takes sustainability beyond just our physical buildings," Rosseth said. "We introduced a GreenTEAM initiative early in 2013 to engage our residents, employees and vendors in a more global effort to reduce waste by 10 percent in 2013. Our blog is a great way to share those efforts and encourage residents to share their own ideas."

MAKING SUSTAINABLE CHANGES

REDUCE WASTE FROM JUNK MAIL

The average American receives more than 40 pounds of junk mail every year. While recycling is a better option than throwing away junk mail, reducing unwanted mail is the best option. The most important thing you can do to keep your name off junk mail lists is to be protective of your contact information. When you give your information, ask to have your name kept off the mailing list. Remember to recycle any junk mail you receive.

Visit [RethinkRecycling.com](#) to find more tips on how to be removed from unsolicited marketing mailing lists and phone book delivery lists.



BRAKE FOR TURTLES

Turtles have been observed crossing East and West Bush Lake Roads. If you see a turtle on the road, slow down and drive around it, and be sure to look for turtles before backing out of a parking space.

Minnesota has nine turtle species, some of which are protected. The three species you are most likely to see in Bloomington are the Painted, Snapping and Blanding's turtles. The latter is a protected species.

For more information, check out this YouTube video by scanning the QR code or visiting the City's YouTube channel at <http://blm.mn/turtle>.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: TURTLES.



VISIT THE FARMERS MARKET

To make shopping more convenient and healthy foods more accessible, the Farmers Market accepts credit cards and electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards for food assistance, in addition to cash. Stop by the information tent at the market to purchase tokens with your EBT or credit card to use on qualifying purchases from participating vendors. EBT customers also receive up to \$5 worth of "market bucks" every Saturday they visit the market.

Market Bucks is funded by the Minnesota Department of Human Services and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota.





## HUMAN SERVICES

### CARING FOR OUR CITIZENS

Human Services provides exceptional programs and services to community members of all ages. You can learn about our programs in the *Human Services Community Resource Catalog*. Pick up your catalog at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, or Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, or find it online. For more information, call Human Services at 952-563-8733 or TTY 952-563-8740.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: HUMAN SERVICES.

Sign up for Human Services' monthly e-mail newsletters by scanning the QR code at right.



### CITY HONORS HISTORICAL FIGURES

#### DRED SCOTT PLAYFIELD GETS NEW SIGNAGE

In 1971, the City Council approved the naming of the City's largest playfield to honor the courage and contributions of Dred Scott and to acknowledge his important place in history. This summer, the City installed interpretive signs at the playfield to explain the historical significance of Dred Scott. The City unveiled the signs at a dedication and live history reenactment event at Bloomington Civic Plaza. The event was attended by more than 300 people, including Lynne Jackson, great-great-granddaughter of Dred and Harriet Scott, pictured third from right.



### DELEGATION FROM IZUMI CITY, JAPAN TO VISIT

#### CONNECT WITH BLOOMINGTON'S SISTER CITY

Bloomington will host a delegation from its sister city, Izumi City, Japan, August 26 - 29. This official delegation will include the Izumi City mayor and other officials from the city and school board. The mayoral delegation will tour Bloomington Civic Plaza and enjoy other activities and events during their visit to Bloomington. Follow the delegation's visit on the City's Facebook page by clicking on the Facebook icon on the [City's website](#).

#### DID YOU KNOW?

The Bloomington Sister City relationship began in 1993 and has included many visits from student and adult delegations.



## FIT OVER 55

Human Services invites you to keep healthy and active with the following programs for adults age 55 and older. To register, call 952-563-4948, e-mail [reservations@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:reservations@ci.bloomington.mn.us), or visit the [City's website](#). Programs take place at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, unless otherwise noted.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SENIOR FITNESS.



#### WALK TO RUN

Walk to Run is a free fitness program for adults age 55 and older. The program consists of weekly group walks and runs at various Bloomington locations. The group meets **every Saturday morning at 9 a.m.** A social hour is held after each meeting.



#### HEALTHY LIVING SPEAKER SERIES

Human Services is partnering with Allina Health to present *Treatment Options for Arthritis in Active Adults*. This free event take place **Thursday, August 15, 1 - 3 p.m.**, and features a panel discussion with physicians.



#### ZUMBA GOLD

Learn some dance moves and get in shape with Zumba Gold. This exercise program incorporates Latin dance and aerobic exercise to give you the ultimate workout to target your heart, lungs, legs and arms. A new seven-week session begins **Friday, September 13, 9 a.m.** Session fees are \$35 for residents (\$7 drop-in) and \$49 for non-residents (\$9 drop-in).



#### COFFEE TALK

Do you leave your physician's office with unanswered questions or more questions than you came in with? Join Human Services on **Wednesday, August 21, 10 - 11 a.m.**, for *Coffee Talk: Getting the Most Out of Your Doctor Visits*.



#### LET'S GO FISHING!

Enjoy a fishing trip in the comfort of a fully accessible pontoon, on Lake Riley in Eden Prairie, **Tuesday, August 20**. A bus will depart from Creekside at 8:15 a.m. and return at 12:45 p.m. Fishing rods, reels, tackle and life jackets will be provided. Cost is \$5 per person. Register early. Space is limited.



## HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

### OMAR BONDERUD AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission is seeking nominations for the Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award. Each year, this award is presented to an individual or organization that has contributed to ensuring equality in housing, education, employment or other areas of human rights for all Bloomington citizens.

Nominations are due August 23.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: OMAR BONDERUD.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- International Day of Peace celebration is **Monday, September 16, 7 - 8:30 p.m.**, at Bloomington Civic Plaza.
- Bloomington Heritage Days is **Saturday, September 21**, at 98th Street and Lyndale Avenue. Find the Human Rights Commission booth to make a cultural craft and mark your origin on the heritage map.



PRIMARY ELECTION  
CAST YOUR BALLOT  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 13  
POLLING PLACES OPEN 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M.

There will be a Municipal Primary Election on Tuesday, August 13. A Primary Election is required by the City Charter when more than two candidates file for an office. The two candidates with the highest number of votes in the Primary Election will advance to the General Election ballot.

Candidates on the Primary Election ballot are:  
**Councilmember At-Large (Four-year term)**

- Cynthia Bemis Abrams
- Xavier Bicott
- Carol Wagner

**Councilmember District I (Two-year term)**

- Richard Bohnen
- Robert Chamberlain
- Dwayne A. Lowman
- Marcus L. Page

**Councilmember District II (Two-year term)**

- Andrew Carlson
- Thomas Hulting
- Scott Lechtenberg

**Councilmember District III (Four-year term)**

- Jack Baloga
- Russ Burnison
- Steve Peer
- Ryan Reetz
- Bill Reichert

**Councilmember District IV (Four-year term)**

- Ken Johnson
- Sally Ness
- Jon Oleson

POLLING PLACES

Election Day voters must vote at the polling place assigned to their legal residence. To verify your polling place go to: [Pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us](http://Pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us).

NEW VOTING EQUIPMENT

City of Bloomington voters will see new vote tabulators when casting ballots. The advanced optical scan vote tabulator with improved features will enhance the voting process. The basic voting process will remain the same. Voters must still complete a paper ballot and insert it into the vote tabulator. Equipment demonstrations are available at the City Clerk’s office, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: ELECTION.



Bloomington celebrated its 35th Summer Fete event this past July. This photo was taken at the very first Summer Fete in 1978.

TO ALL OUR SUMMER FETE SPONSORS  
WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

This year’s Summer Fete drew an estimated 40,000 people to Normandale Lake Bandshell. The City would like to thank the following sponsors for their donations:

DETONATION SPONSORS

- Cub Foods, Valley West
- Friendship Village Bloomington
- Martin Luther Campus
- Richfield-Bloomington Credit Union
- Urban Communications

STARS AND STRIPES SPONSORS

- Bloomington Convention & Visitors Bureau
- David Fong’s Restaurant
- Everett McClay Post 1296
- Feldmann Imports
- Jimmy John’s
- Plekkenpol Builders, Inc.
- Raindance Sprinkler Systems, Inc.
- Woolley’s Restaurant
- Ziegler, Inc.



PHOTO BY LONDELL PEASE

OUT AND ABOUT



PLANNING ON PAINTING?  
GET TIPS FROM THE EXPERTS

Don’t miss the Housing and Redevelopment Authority home improvement seminar, *Interior Painting*, Tuesday, August 20, 7 p.m., at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. TruNorth Painting’s Eric Moored will discuss techniques for painting walls, ceilings and trim, and preparing surfaces to be painted.

No registration is required. For more information, call HRA Program Specialist Brian Duerwachter at 952-563-8939.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: HRA SEMINARS.



RIVER RENDEZVOUS  
TRAVEL BACK IN TIME

The 19th annual River Rendezvous takes place Thursday, September 26, 4 - 8:30 p.m., at Pond Dakota Mission Park. Experience what it was like to live in Bloomington between 1830 and 1870 through historical reenactments and demonstrations. Food will be available for purchase.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: RIVER RENDEZVOUS.

CITIZEN SURVEY  
RESULTS TO BE REVEALED IN OCTOBER BRIEFING

In May, the City of Bloomington sent a random sample survey to 3,000 residents in collaboration with the National Research Center of Boulder, Colorado. Residents were asked to share their satisfaction levels with City services and programs. The results will be shared in the October *Briefing*. A survey was also conducted in 2012.



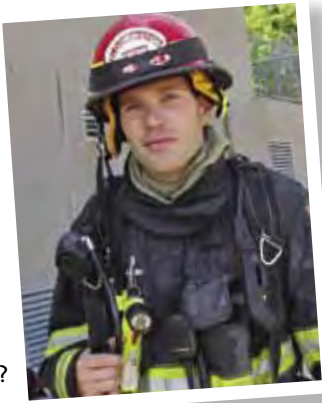
# FOCUS ON BLOOMINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

## AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION DON'T LET SPARKS FLY

Need to get gasoline for your grill or lawn mower? The next time you stop at the gas station to fill your portable container, keep this in mind: The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recommends drivers always place portable gasoline containers on the ground while filling them. Filling gas containers while they are located in beds of pickup trucks or sitting in trunks is dangerous. The flow of gasoline through the pump nozzle can produce static electricity. During fueling, this can create a spark between the container and the fuel nozzle, igniting gasoline vapors and causing a fire or explosion.

Here are some recommendations to stay safe when filling up:

- Use only approved containers meant for gasoline.
- Bring the fill nozzle in contact with the inside of the fill opening before operating the nozzle. Contact should be maintained until filling is complete.
- Gasoline containers should never be transported inside passenger areas of vehicles.



## VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE Q & A WITH MATTHEW HAMMERNIK

Volunteer Firefighter Matthew Hammernik has been with the Bloomington Fire Department for five years.

**Q:** You have a degree in Information Technology from St. Cloud State and work as a paramedic for Allina, what made you decide to become a volunteer firefighter?

**A:** I went to college because I was offered a football scholarship, but I always knew I'd be a firefighter. I have several family members who work in police and fire, including two uncles who are fire chiefs in Milwaukee.

**Q:** If you weren't firefighter, what would you do?

**A:** My dream would be to be a professional golfer, but with my game, that is not even close to reality. I would probably do construction. I enjoy remodeling.

**Q:** What do you like to do in your spare time?

**A:** I like to play with my kids, go for walks and play games in the back yard. We walk to Kent Hrbek or Maplewood park and watch the little league games.

**Q:** What's the best thing about volunteering for the BFD?

**A:** The BFD is a very close-knit family. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

*The 120 members of the volunteer, paid-on-call Bloomington Fire Department respond to fire calls from six fire stations throughout the city.*

## SAVE THE DATE! FIRE STATION OPEN HOUSES

This year's open houses take place on **Saturday, October 12, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**, at all Bloomington fire stations. Bring the kids to meet Sparky and enjoy fun activities, station tours, fire equipment demonstrations and more.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FIRE OPEN HOUSES.**

## ON PATROL BACK TO SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

With the start of the school year right around the corner, now is a good time to talk to kids about how to be safe when traveling to and from school. Take the time to talk with your children about personal safety. Do not assume your child knows what to do. Read each safety tip below to them and ask for their feedback. You'll be happy you did.

### RIDING THE BUS:

- Have a safe place to wait for your bus, away from the street and traffic.
- Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.
- After exiting, take 10 giant steps away from the bus.
- Stay at a safe distance and make sure you can see the driver when crossing in front of the bus.
- Use the handrail when entering and exiting.

### WALKING AND BIKING TO SCHOOL:

- Mind all traffic signals.
- Cross with the light.

- Walk your bike through intersections.
- Walk or bike with a buddy.
- Wear bright clothing or reflective gear.
- Lock up your bike when leaving it unattended.

### RIDING IN A CAR:

- Always wear your seat belt.
- Use appropriate safety seats. For proper fit, height, weight and age requirements, visit the Minnesota Department of Public Safety at [www.dps.mn.gov](http://www.dps.mn.gov).

For more information, call 952-563-8861.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SCHOOL SAFETY.**

## PARTNERS IN CRIME MEET OFFICER MIKE VONDERHARR AND BARNEY



Bloomington Police Officer Mike Vonderharr has been with the Bloomington Police Department for more than 12 years. Vonderharr and his K-9 partner Barney recently graduated from the Saint Paul Police Department's K-9 School. During the intensive 12-week Basic Canine Handlers Course, Vonderharr and Barney trained in a variety of skills, including obedience, agility, article searches, tracking and suspect apprehensions.

Barney is Vonderharr's second K-9 partner. His first partner, Hugo, retired last year after nine years of service. Hugo and Barney live with Vonderharr and his family in their Lakeville home.

To see Barney in action, scan the QR code at right or visit the City's YouTube channel at <http://blm.mn/barney>



## FOUND ON FACEBOOK

### YOU LIKE US, YOU REALLY LIKE US! CITY'S FACEBOOK PAGE SURPASSES 1,100 FANS

Have you visited the City's Facebook page lately? We recently reached a big milestone – more than 1,100 fans! Visit the page for timely updates on City programs and events or to browse one of our many photo albums. Below is a story recently posted to the [City's Facebook page](#) that garnered a number of "likes."





# 2013 PERFORMANCE SERIES

The Bloomington Center for the Arts Performance Series includes awe-inspiring theater, band, chorale concerts, jazz and dance. Performances are held in the Schneider or Black Box theaters, located in the Bloomington Center for the Arts at the corner of 98th Street and West Old Shakopee Road.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: PERFORMANCE SERIES.**



## CHECK OUT THIS AMAZING LINEUP OF SHOWS



### David Auburn's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama

Bloomington Civic Theatre presents the story of a troubled young woman and her deceased mathematician father, and her struggle with mathematical genius and mental illness.

*September 13 - October 6*

*Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.*

*Sundays, 2 p.m.*

*Adults \$22 • Seniors \$20 • 25 and under \$17*



### The Shadows Tribute Band

The Shadows Tribute Band highlights the music of the 1950s and 60s and features Bloomington Symphony Orchestra strings. Honorees include **Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison, Ritchie Valens, Gene Pitney, Bobby Vee** and the **Everly Brothers**.

*Saturday, September 21, 7:30 p.m.*

*Adults \$25 • Seniors \$22 • 25 and under \$18*



### Butch Thompson and his St. Paul Trio

Come hear classic Americana by Butch Thompson's St. Paul Trio, along with guest vocalist Lee Engele, in a very big show of ragtime, New Orleans jazz, blues and pop songs.

*Sunday, September 29, 2 p.m.*

*Adults \$25 • Seniors \$22 • 25 and under \$18*



### Love Potion #10 – "The Musical!"

The Whitesidewalls bring you a story of six days in 1964 at a small-town high school, through the eyes and ears of a popular local AM radio disc jockey. Michael Patrick "Records" Ryan spins doo-wop, rockabilly and rock 'n' roll gold.

*Friday, October 4, 7:30 p.m.*

*Adults \$25 • Seniors \$22 • 25 and under \$18*



### What the World Needs Now: The Songs of Burt Bacharach and Hal David

Burt Bacharach and Hal David created dozens of hits in the 1960s and 70s. The songs will be performed by cabaret singer Jennifer Eckes and popular jazz club performer Arne Fogel.

*Friday, November 1, 7:30 p.m.*

*Saturday, November 2, 7:30 p.m.*

*Sunday, November 3, 2 p.m.*

*Adults \$19 • Seniors \$17 • 25 and under \$15*



### Medalist Concert Band turns art into music

The Medalist Concert Band performs works of music that are based on works of art. Featured is *Pictures at an Exhibition* by Modest Mussorgsky – a suite that depicts viewers making their way through an art gallery.

*Sunday, November 17, 4 p.m.*

*Adults \$12 • Seniors \$10 • 25 and under \$10*



### Bloomington Civic Theatre's perennial holiday event

Bloomington Civic Theatre weaves a modern-day New Year's Eve into Hans Christian Andersen's classic fable *The Little Match Girl*.

*December 13 - December 31*

*Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.*

*Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m.*

*Adults \$22 • Seniors \$20 • 25 and under \$17*



### Rutter's Gloria and Old-Time Radio Christmas

The Bloomington Chorale presents an old-time Christmas concert. Whether you remember the days when radio ruled the airwaves or read about it in History 101, your toes will be tapping.

*Friday, December 13, 7:30 p.m.*

*Saturday, December 14, 4 p.m.*

*Adults \$15 • Seniors \$11 • 25 and under \$11  
(Add \$1 to ticket price at door)*



### An afternoon of holiday cheer

Join the Medalist Concert Band for an afternoon of holiday cheer and help the band support a local charity. No matter what your favorite holiday song, the Medalist Concert Band is sure to play it in this program of contemporary favorites and traditional classics.

*Sunday, December 15, 4 p.m.*

*Adults \$12 • Seniors \$10 • 25 and under \$10*



### NOTE-able Singers presents Songs of Winter

Feel the joy of the holidays as you listen to the music of Broadway shows like *Mame*, famous artists like Bing Crosby and old familiar carols that will end the show in a sing-a-long medley.

*Thursday, December 19, 7:30 p.m.*

*Adults \$15 • Seniors \$12 • 5 and under free*

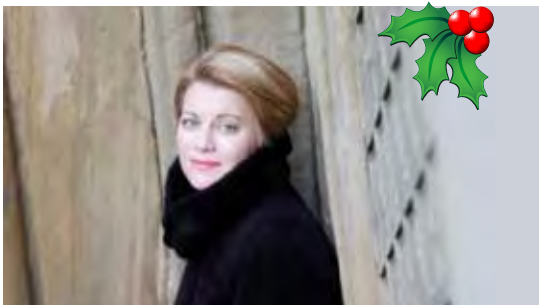


### A Bluegrass Christmas

The holiday season is the perfect time to see Monroe Crossing! Their airtight harmonies and onstage rapport make for an exciting, festive evening. You'll enjoy bluegrass renditions of *Silver Bells, Up on the Housetop, Blue Christmas* and more.

*Friday, December 20, 7:30 p.m.*

*Adults \$25 • Seniors \$22 • 25 and under \$18*



### Let it Snow: Vintage Film and Classic Carols

Revisit some of the most well-known performers of holiday pop music of the 1930s through 1950s in rare film clips and take a tour through their songbooks with Maud Hixson and the Wolverines Trio.

*Saturday, December 21, 7:30 p.m.*

*Adults \$25 • Seniors \$22 • 25 and under \$18*

## Bloomington Center for the Arts Performance Series Tickets

**ORDER BY PHONE:** Call 952-563-8575 • **ORDER ONLINE:** Go to [www.centerstageticketing.com/sites/bloomington](http://www.centerstageticketing.com/sites/bloomington)

**ORDER IN PERSON:** Due to the seasonal nature of our organizations, the box office is open according to demand. Call 952-563-8575 for current hours. Programs, artists and prices subject to change. Orders received less than 7 days prior to the performance will be held for pick up at the box office.

All ticket sales are final. No refunds or exchanges.